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University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Missoulain wins Frontier Award" (1981).
University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present. 6648.
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MEDIA RELEASE

English/tsh

2/27/81

Entertainer + other local +
dailies

MISSOULIAN WINS FRONTIER AWARD

MISSOULA--

Frances Kuffel, a University of Montana senior majoring in English and religious studies, has received the Frontier Award of \$250 for a manuscript of poems titled "A Whispering of Fences." She is the daughter of Dr. Leonard and Marie Kuffel, Missoula.

The award also provides for the publication of the winning manuscript and its distribution to college and university libraries in the Northwest. Granted in alternate years, the contest this year brought in a dozen entries. Judging was done by a faculty committee consisting of John Ellis, music; Julie Codell, art; Robert Wilcox, drama; and Lois Welch, English.

Kuffel's poetry explores a wide variety of settings and imagined selves, as in this stanza of "Walking Jerusalem":

Friday, and an old woman
wails at Golgotha, happy at last
to be in Jerusalem for Easter.
Roadsides are dotted with crocuses east of the city.
We lunch on a hill: boiled eggs,
salt in paper twists, bread
and tepid water from our hotel.
Under a pomegranate tree
the fruit is not yet ripe. You sputter
at the sourness, and I laugh, breathing
in smells of sheep and pampas grass.
It's lambing time in the country.

H. G. Merriam, longtime professor and professor emeritus of English until his death in 1980, established the Frontier Award to recognize the work of outstanding young writers enrolled at UM. From 1920 to 1939, Merriam edited the quarterly journal Frontier, and helped start many now-famous writers on their careers. Friends of Professor Merriam who wish to contribute to the Frontier Award fund may do so by contacting the UM Foundation office at 243-2593.

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